

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2667

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1234

DEPTO 32

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: JOINT PRESS STATEMENT AT PORT MORESBY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT PRESS STATEMENT FOR ALBERT MAORI KIKI, MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE, AND UNITED STATES DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. KENNETH RUSH, ISSUED MORNING OF MARCH 1 AT PORT MORESBY:

2. BEGIN TEXT THE UNITED STATES DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, KENNETH RUSH, AND MRS. RUSH CONCLUDED A VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA THIS MORNING. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, MARSHALL GREEN, MRS. GREEN AND A GROUP OF U.S. OFFICIALS. THE VISITORS ARRIVED AT 1:00 P.M. ON 28 FEBRUARY, 1974 AND DEPARTED AT 6:40 A.M. ON 1 MARCH. DURING THEIR VISIT, DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND AMBASSADOR GREEN WERE RECEIVED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, MR. BARRY HOLLOWAY, AND OBSERVED HOUSE BUSINESS FROM THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY. DURING THEIR
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VISIT TO THE HOUSE THEY HELD TALKS WITH THE CHIEF

MINISTER, MR. MICHAEL SOMARE, THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE, MR. ALBERT MAORI KIKI, SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. TEI ABAL. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS ALSO GUEST OF HONOR AT A RECEPTION ON THE EVENING OF THE 28TH FEBRUARY HOSTED BY MR. MAORI KIKI, DURING WHICH A FORMAL EXCHANGE OF GIFTS TOOK PLACE.

DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, AMBASSADOR GREEN AND THEIR WIVES WERE HOUSE GUESTS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MRS. JOHNSON AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT MORESBY.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TODAY, DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND MR. KIKI EXPRESSED THEIR MUTUAL GRATIFICATION AT THIS FIRST CONTACT BETWEEN HIGH RANKING AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT SINCE THE DECLARATION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON 1ST DECEMBER, 1973. THEY SAID THAT THE VISIT SIGNIFIED THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FUTURE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN WORKING FOR GOOD RELATIONS AND HARMONY AMONGST ALL THE COUTRIES OF THE PACIFIC REGION, IN WHICH THEY BOTH HAVE AN ABIDING INTEREST. IN SAYING THIS, THEY NOTED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION AND SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE.

DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE REVIEWED WORLD AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. THEY WELCOMED THE LESSENING OF TENSIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY PROGRESS TOWARDS DETENTE AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS AND AGREED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT GAVE OTHER COUNTRIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THEMSELVES.

MR. MAORI KIKI SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH OF THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL IN PORT MORESBY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE A WELCOME AND CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MR. MAORI KIKI SAID HE WAS ALSO VERY PLEASED TO HEAR FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH OF THE UNITED STATES' INTENTION TO PROVIDE EXCHANGE GRANTS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEANS TO STUDY IN AND VISIT THE UNITED STATES. THE GRANTS WOULD BE FOR STUDENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY AT THE

POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY WOULD ALSO COVER VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY PAPUA NEW GUINEAN LEADERS FOR PERIODS UP TO 30 DAYS TO OBSERVE THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS AND OTHER FACETS OF AMERICAN LIFE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

IN CONCLUDING MR. MAORI KIKI AND DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD PROSPER AND EXPAND IN THE YEARS TO COME. THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. MICHAEL SOMARE, IN PERSONALLY ENDORSING THEIR REMARKS, EXPRESSED HIS OWN PLEASURE THAT THE VISIT HAD TAKEN PLACE AND WAS A MEANS OF OPENING UP RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END TEXT
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